



## ***Independent Medical Examination (IME) Quality Assurance Pilot Project***

**July 2004**

### **Background**

*L&I purchases approximately 17,000 IMEs per year at an annual cost of \$12 million. IMEs are an integral part of the Workers' Compensation process.*

### **For More Information**

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### **For further updates**

*Please continue to  
check the L&I IME web  
page at:  
[www.imes.lni.wa.gov](http://www.imes.lni.wa.gov)*

### **Project Scope**

In 2003, the legislature appropriated funds to conduct a pilot project related to the quality of Independent Medical Examinations (IME) purchased by the Washington State Fund. This project entails:

- developing and testing an IME Quality Assurance audit tool and specialty-matched review process,
- providing feedback to examiners on their reports, and
- using aggregate data from the reviews to improve L&I's IME program.

The project will run from May 2004 through June 30, 2005.

### **Project Status**

Expert Clinical Benchmarks (ECB), LLC. – a research company and subsidiary of MedRisk, Inc., was recently selected through a competitive bid process and began work on May 7, 2004. To read more about MedRisk, use the following link:

[http://www.medrisknet.com/PAGES/prwa\\_state\\_ime.html](http://www.medrisknet.com/PAGES/prwa_state_ime.html)

### **Milestones**

- Develop audit tool/review process and conduct initial reviews, May-August 2004.
- Initial Report-Audit tool and early quality findings, September, 2004
- Provide feedback to examiners on report quality, September 2004-June 2005.
- 2004 Comprehensive report, January 2005.
- Final project evaluation, June 2005.

